

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and updates on
Newfoundland and Labrador's
Intangible Cultural
Heritage Program

June 2010
ISSN 1918-7408

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Between the Wind and the Wave CD Launch in Point Amour, Labrador

"On a good day, the Strait of Belle Isle separating Newfoundland from Southern Labrador has always appeared bright blue and benign, bound by a shoreline of long, sandy beaches with rocky headlands in between.

But when dirty weather set in, when it blew a gale or retreated into a black, thick fog, that's when you looked to the lighthouse, the foghorn and the buoys."

Through the Coastal Heritage Experience project, SmartLabrador and its project partners will be launching a CD entitled "Between the Wind and the Wave". This wonderful CD featuring traditional music and stories of the Labrador Straits region will be launched on June 23, 2010 at Point Amour. SmartLabrador worked with more than 170 individuals of local communities to compile a collection of stories and songs, and worked with Chris Brookes of Battery Radio and Daniel Payne for the production of the CD.



"This product is a reflection of the traditions and lifestyle of our local communities and shares with us memories of how strongly people connected with the land, the sea and one another", says Bonnie Goudie, Executive Director of the Labrador Straits Historical Development Corporation.

The public is invited to join SmartLabrador for the launch at 2pm on Wednesday, June 23rd at Point Amour. The event will be held in the Heritage Research Centre, (old generator building) next to the lighthouse. Please RSVP to Sheila Downer by email at sdowner@smartlabrador.ca or by calling the SmartLabrador office at 931-2072 before June 18, 2010.

My Word Storytelling and Digital Media Lab is launched in Rigolet

By Charlotte Wolfrey, Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, Sherilee Harper, and the My Word Team

(originally printed in the IASSA Newsletter, April 26, 2010)

For Canada's Northern regions, climate change poses challenges to the health and well-being of residents. In particular, Inuit communities are vulnerable to environmental changes, as many Inuit continue to live a lifestyle that is closely tied to, and reliant upon, the natural environment. The community of Rigolet, Nunatsiavut, Canada (54N, 58W) has reported climate change impacts on access to safe fresh drinking water and traditional foods, increased UV exposure, decreased physical activity, unstable travel conditions, ice changes, and unpredictable weather patterns, all of which impact health and well-being and livelihood strategies.

In 2009, the Rigolet Inuit Community Government in Nunatsiavut led a community-driven, participatory, storytelling project which examined the impacts of climate change on human health (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual) and adaptation strategies. To support the research project, the community has received over \$260,000, from two rounds of funding as part of the Climate Change & Health Adaptation in Northern First Nations and Inuit Communities Program (directed by Health Canada's First Nations Inuit Health Branch), as well as additional financial support from Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments (Canada). The community of Rigolet worked with researchers, epidemiologists, and a not-for-profit organization to use digital media to gather stories and data about climate change in the region, the climate-health

relationship, and current and possible adaptation strategies. The 'digital dialogues' gathered created an innovative and powerful platform for health media campaigns and also for analyzing the impacts of climate change on health in Inuit communities.

Currently, the community of Rigolet is in the process of creating the My Word: Storytelling and Digital Media Lab, the first Northern centre in the world dedicated to using digital media and storytelling to share information about Inuit culture, history, and lifestyle through personal narrative. Upon completion, Rigolet will host a fully-equipped media lab, and can welcome individuals from other Northern communities to use digital media to create stories and archive knowledge and experiences. In addition, the My Word team will also have a travelling media lab, which will allow trained community facilitators to travel to other communities with all needed equipment, and facilitate workshops. This will create and encourage the sharing of oral stories between and among Northern communities, and facilitate the strengthening of networks throughout Northern regions.

These digital stories, the related narrative research, and the My Word Storytelling and Digital Media Lab will also be of interest to researchers, journalists, and citizens interested in learning more about Inuit culture and life in Rigolet, as well as the impacts of climate change on human health and well-being. For more information on the project, the digital stories created, and future events, please visit www.rigoletlab.ca or contact the My Word team at my.word.rigolet@gmail.com or Charlotte Wolfrey, AngajukKâk (Mayor) at charlotte.wolfrey@nunatsiavut.com. For more information about the research components of this project, please contact Sherilee Harper, University of Guelph at harpers@uoguelph.ca or Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, University of Guelph, at ashlee@uoguelph.ca. *(Top photo courtesy Melva Williams, bottom photo courtesy Belinda Allen)*



Sample Tape Log Form for Folklore and Oral History Interviews

By Dale Jarvis, ICH Development Officer

Last week, I had a conversation with a historical society. The group is planning on digitizing and organizing some old taped interviews. When they said they didn't really know what was on the tapes, I suggested a good place to start might be with a Tape Log for each tape. Basically, a tape log is an index of topics that the interview covers. It is easier than doing a full transcription, and makes it easier for later researchers to go directly to that section of tape and listen to the part of the interview they are interested in.



"With this tape log, you will later be able to go back and select portions of the tape to listen to and transcribe (word-for-word translation of the tape-recorded interview). Complete tape transcriptions are important, but they are also very time-consuming. A good compromise is to do a combination of logging and transcribing: log the general contents of the tape and transcribe, word for word, the parts that you think you might want to quote directly." - The Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide

While you can certainly do this with tapes themselves, digitizing the material makes things easier in today's digital age. It is also helpful from a conservation perspective.

"I'd digitize first and work with the digitized copies," says Mary Ellen Wright, Professional Development and Outreach Officer with ANLA. "That would be better from a preservation perspective -- save wear and tear on the original tapes."

We've developed our own version of a tape log form, based on the example given by the Smithsonian. The forms can be downloaded, along with other sample forms such as consent forms, at: <http://www.mun.ca/ich/resources/>

What's New with the ICH Digital Archives Initiative (DAI)

By Chris Mouland, DAI Intern

There are several upcoming projects for Intangible Cultural Heritage. We are currently in the process of uploading a second group of David Taylor interviews to our Boatbuilding DAI collection. These interviews, recorded in the early 1980s as research for David Taylor's PhD thesis, focus on 12 Newfoundland boatbuilders from the Trinity Bay area. By listening to these interviews, one gains an appreciation of these men, their hard work, and their way of life.



There will soon be a special topic collection added to the DAI, which focuses on Rug Hooking in Newfoundland. Hooked rugs often go beyond their primary function and into the realm of artistic expression. The skills needed to produce this art have been handed down through generations of Newfoundlanders. These rugs - and the skills needed to produce them - are excellent examples of our cultural heritage.

Finally, we have been in contact with both the Torbay and Grand Falls – Windsor Heritage Societies regarding several tape recorded interviews. Our aim is to digitize these tapes for use on the DAI. While these projects are still in their infantile stages, we are excited about what these tapes have to offer. We will be offering updates on this project as soon as more information is available.

Canadian Youth Storytelling Scholarship Call for applications from Newfoundland and Labrador



The St. John's Storytelling Festival and Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada (SC-CC) is pleased to announce the launch of the Canadian Youth Storytelling Scholarship. Each year, SC-CC holds its annual conference in a different location across Canada. The Canadian Youth Storytelling Scholarship will send a young storytelling enthusiast from the conference's home province or territory to that year's conference.

In 2010, the conference is being held in St. John's from July 28th to August 1st, and the first recipient of the Canadian Youth Storytelling Scholarship will be from Newfoundland and Labrador. One scholarship winner from Newfoundland and Labrador will be invited to the conference to meet and interact with storytellers from across the nation and around the world, take part in exciting workshops, and be invited to concert performances by some of Canada's and the United Kingdom's finest storytellers.

The winner receives:

- Free admission to the SC-CC conference, July 28-August 1, 2010
- Entrance to all concerts and workshops
- A one-year membership to Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada
- A \$250 grant to help offset the cost of travel and accommodation
- Partnership with an established storyteller, who will act as a mentor, guide and resource.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Youth aged 18-30 interested in using storytelling in their respective fields (i.e., education, psychology, museum work, environmental education, healing arts, law, religion, business, theatre, or freelance storytelling!)

HOW TO APPLY:

Please provide the following information via email:

- Name, Address, City, Province
- Telephone Numbers (home and cell)
- Email Address
- Date of Birth
- Storytelling experience (either telling or listening)
- Answer the following three questions:

1. Why are you interested in attending the Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada Annual Conference?
2. What do you hope to gain from the conference?
3. How can storytelling be used in your present or desired line of work?

Completed applications for the Canadian Youth Storytelling Scholarship must be submitted, by email, to youthstorytelling@gmail.com by Wednesday, June 30th, 2010.

